

6:30-1.3 CERTIFICATION FOR A STATE –ISSUED HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

(a) Either of the following methods may be used to qualify for a State-issued High School Diploma:

1. Persons may apply for a State-issued high school diploma by taking the Tests of General Education Development (GED) of the American Council on Education or other tests approved by the State Board of Education which shall be used as the basis for qualifying for a State-issued high school diploma.
 - i. The Commissioner shall establish uniform, statewide standard scores for passage of the GED test.
 - ii. The standard score requirements shall be adopted and be subject to change by resolution of the State Board of Education. The State Board shall announce its intent to change GED score requirements no less than 28 days prior to final adoption.
 - iii. Exceptions to the standard score requirement may be made by the Commissioner upon the recommendation of the Assistant Commissioner... with respect to persons 60 years of age and older. In no case may an exception to the passing score fall below the minimum passing scores established by the American Council on Education. Such a determination will be made on a case by case basis considering circumstances such as health and achievement.
2. Persons may apply and qualify for a state-issued high school diploma by passing the High School Proficiency Test and presenting official transcripts showing at least 30 general education credits leading to a degree at an accredited institution of higher education. Included in the 30 general education credits must be a minimum of 15 credits with at least three credits in each of the five general education categories as follows: communication; mathematics; science; social science; and the humanities. For the purpose of this section the five general education categories shall be defined as follows:
 - i. “Communications: shall mean courses designed to enhance facility in the English language.
 - ii. “Mathematics” shall mean courses designed to enhance mathematical conceptual understanding and application including computer science.
 - iii. “Science” shall mean courses designed to enhance scientific conceptual understanding and application.
 - iv. “Social Science” shall mean courses designed to promote social awareness, including understanding social, economic and political problems and the responsibilities of citizenship in an interdependent world; and
 - v. “Humanities” shall mean courses in literary, philosophical, foreign language, historical, aesthetic, or other studies to promote the understanding and transmission of values to one’s own and other cultures.
3. Persons seeking to qualify for a state-issued high school diploma as outlined in this section, shall be at least 16 years of age and out of school. Exceptions to the age requirement may be made by the Commissioner upon the recommendation of the Assistant Commissioner... for persons under 16 years of age who have otherwise met all State high school graduation requirements. Such determination will be made on a case by case considering extraordinary academic or personal achievement